Performance in S.A. by cricket team

2883. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Indian cricket team did not fare well in the cricket matches held recently in South Africa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was any political pressure in the selection of players; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring improvement in the performance of the Indian Cricket Team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Board of Control for cricket in India (BCCI), in South Africa the Indian team put up creditable performance and was in the final of the One day Triangular series, though it lost in the final. However, the performance in the test matches has been stated as not upto the mark.

(c) The selection of the team is done by an All India Selection Committee constituted by the BCCI and the Government has no role in this process.

(d) As per information received from BCCI, the President BCCI has already had preliminary meetings with the members of All India Senior and Junior Selection Committees and had discussions on various aspects of the Indian teams at different levels. Meeting is also proposed with Coach, Physical trainer and team members immediately after the test series between India and England. BCCI has stated that necessary steps would be taken arising out of such deliberations.